



Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

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OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Korea Consul General Kang Dae-Hyun pays courtesy call on Governor Togiola

(UTULEI) - Korea Consul General, the Hon. Kang Dae-Hyun, based in Honolulu, paid a courtesy call on Governor Togiola Tulafono at the Office of the Governor in Utulei, Tuesday, August 22nd.

In welcoming Consul General Kang to his very first visit to the Territory, Governor Togiola acknowledged the excellent Korean-American relations and the local Korean community's contribution in American Samoa, particularly in economic development.

"The Korean community has always demonstrated its commitment and confidence in the Territory's future through its substantial contribution to our economy," said Governor Togiola. "I wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation in the role that they play in enhancing American Samoa's business climate."

The Governor said the Territory benefits greatly with the support of the Korean community in the stabilization of the local economy.

Governor Togiola also discussed with the Consul General, who visited with his wife Mrs. Kang, the concerns of the local Korean community for American Samoa's stringent immigration process.

"I am quite aware of the lengthy immigration process that foreigners go through, and let me assure you that it isn't just with our Korean members of our island community, other nationalities as well, including our own people from the Independent State of Samoa, go through the same process," Governor Togiola told Consul General Kang. "The American Samoa Government will continue to work on improving the system in how we process immigration paperwork."

Governor Togiola thanked Consul General Kang for visiting the Territory and wished him well. After a gift exchange, the Governor invited Mr. Kang to attend a Flag Day celebration in the future.

Consul General Kang will return to Honolulu on Wednesday.



Governor Togiola Tulafono and Korea Consul General Kang Dae Hyun from Honolulu and Mrs. Kang with local Korean businessmen Mr. Kweon, Mr. Ki, Mr. Lee and Rev. Kim after the courtesy call visit at the Office of the Governor in Utulei on Tuesday.
(photo: ASG)

Governor Togiola Tulafono to meet with DOI Dep. Assistant Sec. David Cohen and business GROUP

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono will meet with the Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary - Papali'itele David Cohen on Tuesday concerning potential investors in the Territory.

"I believe Mr. Cohen is here at the invitation of a group of investors that have asked to meet with me," said Governor Togiola. "They are interested in doing business in American Samoa. I will be meeting with Mr. Cohen and this group that is headed by Mr. Mark Hunsaker on Tuesday this week."

"After the meeting, Mr. Cohen wants to talk about how his office might be of assistance in the Hawaiian Airlines problems we are facing," said Governor Togiola.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On August 20, 1830, John Williams and his fellow missionaries approached Apolima, and secured the services of "a European called John Wright," who "came to offer himself as our Interpreter in which capacity we were glad to accept him." On this occasion, Williams recorded the recent assassination of the reputed cannibal chief Lei'ataua Tonumaipe'a Tamafaiga "about 15 days before our arrival," speculating that "It is thought he would have used all his influence to oppose our object he himself being almost the object of adoration but he was removed."

On August 20, 1870, Edward Stanley Kellogg, 15th naval governor of American Samoa (September 4, 1923--March 17, 1925), was born in "Morrisonai, now a part of New York City, New York." He was the "Son of Lieutenant Commander N. Kellogg and Mrs. (Janie H. Pollock) Kellogg."

On August 21, 1903, Commander Edmund Beardsley Underwood, Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, asked the Assistant Secretary of the Navy to send a Marine Gunnery Sergeant to command the Fita Fita Guard. He said that the Fita Fita "are well-drilled, and they work hard and uncomplainingly; they lack, however, in discipline and sense of responsibility, which is perhaps not to be wondered at when we consider that the wild blood of scores of generations is flowing through their veins."

On August 22, 1898, Malietoa Laupepa, who was often deemed "King of Samoa" by the Three Consuls and other European intriguers died in Western Samoa.

On August 22, 1951, the Legislature of American Samoa met in a special one-day session "to consider a petition the content of which had been inserted in the *Congressional Record* and which sharply criticized the members of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of this government. During this session, the *Fono* reviewed the results of an investigation by its joint committee on house rules. Resolutions developed therefrom were forwarded to Washington and were subsequently printed into the *Congressional Record*."

On August 23, 1830, LMS missionary John Williams and his colleagues visited "the Principal Chief Malietoa [Vai'inupo, at Sapapali'i, Savai'i] with the present we had brought for him." (Axes, hammers, chisels, cloth, beads and a large quantity of LMS publications). In return, Malietoa brought the missionaries "a present of mats and native cloth. The Chief held one end of the cloth and mats in his hands leaving the other to drag after him in the form of a train which an elderly female bore slightly off the ground. The Chief came in twice in the above mentioned manner and presented the mats and cloth to us rather in a stately and graceful manner." After Malietoa was seated, Williams, using John Wright as an interpreter, explained the purpose of his visit, which was not to take any of his property, but rather, to teach him "and his people the knowledge of the true God."

On August 23, 1899, the U.S. Government purchased unnumbered parcels of land for the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila listed as "Acquisition of Water Rights: Reservoir, pipeline, etc." from "Mauga, Lutu, Tiumalu, Faanate, Mailo; Tamuu, Taesali, Isoa, chief talking men of Faga Toga, Tiumalua, Mailo, Afoa, Samia, Tamuu, Fagini, and Ifupo, owners of certain lands in and around Faga Toga" for \$300.00.

On August 23, 1941, the proposed plan "of enlistment of natives in the First Samoan Battalion [U.S. Marine Corps Reserve] estimated that approximately 753 were prospective candidates. These figures cannot be used as accurate, it was pointed out, because the natives change their names frequently and because they reported for drills in different villages. Three hundred and one men attended weekly drills regularly. More than 200 men of these prospects were employed in other than plantation work. It was estimated that not more than 50 men could be enlisted from the islands of the Manu'a Group without material injury to their economic and social life."

On August 24, 1943, First Lady (Anna) Eleanor Roosevelt inspected the Fita Fita Guard Band, and the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

Two ASCC Students Travel to the East Coast for Year Internships

By Dr. Carolyn Braun, ASCC Marine Science Director

Two students from the American Samoa Community College have been chosen for unique opportunities to gain knowledge and experience within the field of Marine Science. Derek Toloumu, a Marine Science major, and Sione Lam Yuen, an Education major with an environmental interest, will travel to the East Coast at the end of August for year-long internships.

Toloumu is the second ASCC student to be accepted into the internship program at the Newfound Harbor Marine Institute (NHMI) at SEACAMP in the Florida Keys. NHMI accepts interns and instructors from every region of the US, and just recently, the American Samoa Community College. The NHMI internship includes six to eight weeks of focused training. Interns learn boat-handling skills and US Coast Guard rules to captain the institute's 26 ft. oceanic research vessels. They also obtain American Red Cross certifications in Life-guarding, CPR and Advanced First Aid. Seminars and hands-on training workshops in mangrove ecology, reef fish ecology, coastal ecology, shark biology, coral reef ecology and field techniques are attended, and interns are required to participate in seminars on teaching techniques, program observations, and team teaching sessions.

As one of the twelve staff members, Toloumu will instruct a wide variety of participants, ranging from fourth graders on their own for the first time, middle school students exploring a new world, college students enrolled in a course, to teachers upgrading their skills and knowledge. Toloumu commented, "I am blessed to have been chosen to attend this program and will be looking forward to teaching students about the environment while helping them apply the knowledge and skills acquired in their classroom to real life situations"

Lam Yuen will be traveling to Jekyll Island, Georgia, to work as an environmental educator at the Jekyll Island 4-H Environmental Education Center. The Center's main focus is barrier island ecology. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, Lam Yuen will be providing participants the opportunity to expand their knowledge of beach, marsh and forest environments.

The Jekyll Island 4-H Environmental Education Program encompasses many aspects of the marine environment, is aligned with the most current Georgia state curriculum and standards, allows students to be active participants in the learning experience, and encourages teacher-student interactions in an atmosphere much different than the traditional classroom. Lam Yuen stated, "This is a good opportunity for me to gain a global perspective, and to enrich my personal experiences in education. I would like to come back with these experiences to collaborate with my students in the classroom."

These students will have the opportunity to find out first-hand about what environmental educators do through hands-on experiences with professionals, receive training in specific areas, and build networks with other students and professionals. Environmental learning experiences can provide an awareness of who we are



Derek Toloumu (left) and Sione Lam Yuen (right) will travel to the state of Georgia this month to spend a year as an intern with the Jekyll Island 4-H Environmental Education Program.
(Photo courtesy ASCC/Sea Grant)



Governor Togiola welcomes Congressman Faleomavaega's inquiry of Hawaiian Air high fares

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today welcomed the efforts of Congressman Faleomavaega Eni in inquiring about the Hawaiian Air high fares charged on the Pago Pago-Honolulu route.

The following is the official statement of Governor Togiola:

“The community welcomes, as I do, our Washington Delegate's intention, firmly declared now, to get involved in our effort to roll back Hawaiian Airlines predatory airfares. The Congressman appears to appreciate the same outrage that I have experienced in the last eight months in dealing with Mark Dunkerley, the one man who has led Hawaiian Airlines down this path of extreme airfares being charged to our people in American Samoa.

Mr. Dunkerley's reply to his protests, as to mine, has been to toss in the air a confetti of shameless denials that make no sense in the face of the facts: Hawaiian does charge us more than twice what it charges on other routes of the same distance. We have been saying this for almost a year, and now the Congressman's own research has also convinced him that Hawaiian's replies are an obvious attempt to avoid this inconvenient truth.

The Congressman is now focused on this, and we encourage his efforts in Washington. Let's see what he can do. We are all watching and hoping. This is a Washington-created problem and Washington can solve it. The people running the Department of Transportation in 1978, failed to advise Congress that monopolies immune to competition could arise in small outlying markets. Congress asked for DOT's advice on the consequence of its proposed Airline Deregulation in 1978, and they failed to provide the advice which Congress could have adopted to prevent such intractable monopolies from being abused, and so would have prevented Hawaiian Airlines from becoming a predator in their monopoly route to this oceanic community.

We encourage the Congressman to give his utmost efforts in Washington.”

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Tests show presence of coliform bacteria in water from Island Breeze Water Company of Faga'alu. On 16 August 2006, the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) collected and tested water from Island Breeze Water Company of Faga'alu. The results from these tests showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. This water did not meet the American Samoa Drinking Water Standards.

What This Means: This is not an emergency. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves, but can indicate the presence of potentially harmful bacteria.

ASEPA recommends that you do not drink this water until the problems are resolved.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly are at increased risk. These people should seek other safe sources of drinking water. For more information, please contact the ASEPA at 633-2304.

FA'ALIGA MA LAPATA'IGA MO LE SUAVAI TAUMAFI

Ua fa'amaonia le mauaina o le siama (total coliform) i le suavai mai le Kamupani Island Breeze i Faga'alu I le aso 16 o Aukuso 2006, e tusa ai ma su'esu'ega a le Ofisa o le Si'osi'omaga i Amerika Samoa (ASEPA), ua fa'amaonia ai le mauaina o siama (total coliform) i suavai mai le Kamupani Island Breeze i Faga'alu. Ma e le o talafeagai ma tulaga fa'atupula'aina mo suavai taumafa i Amerika Samoa.

O lona Uiga: E le o se tulaga e ono fa'apopoleina tele ai, ona o lenei siama (total coliform) e le malosi tele.

Ae peita'i, ona o le iai o nei siama (total coliform) i le suavai sa su'esu'ea, e faailoa mai ai le tele o le avanoa e ono a'afia ai ma ni siama e malolosi atu, ma e ono afaina ai le soifumaloloina.

E fautua atu le ASEPA i le mamalu o le atunuu o loo taumafa i le Suavai mai le Island Breeze ina ia taofia le toe fa'aogaina, se'ia toe logo atu e le ASEPA pe a mae'a ona fo'ia lenei faafitauli.

E fautua atu fo'i tagata matutua, o tamaiti laiti, ma tagata o lo'o fa'agasegasega, ae maise ie maua-gofie i fa'ama'i, ina ia 'aia ne'i toe fa'aogaina nei suavai se'i toe maua atu nisi fa'asalalauga. Ma e fautua atu ai pea i le mamalu o le atunuu ina ia salii nisi suavai ua mautinoa e saogalemu. Mo ni Fesili i lenei mata'upu, faafeso'ota'i mai le Ofisa o le Si'osi'omaga i Amerika Samoa i le telefoni 633-2304.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With:

**Governor
Togiola
Tulafono**

**Saturdays @
7a.m.**

On:

**Showers of
Blessings-
FM 104.7**

**Call 699-8123
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Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

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**Deadline for submissions is
Thursday @ noon.**

Contact:

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Territorial Mercury Assessment Project Contributes to Regional Research on Global Mercury Issues

(ASEPA PRESS RELEASE) The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) has initiated a research project to investigate global mercury impacts on coral reefs on the remote oceanic islands of American Samoa. This project will provide information on the consequences from atmospheric mercury at the global scale, and will attempt to explain some of the poorly understood components of the complex mercury cycle within marine ecosystems. The objective of the project is to characterize the influence of global mercury in a remote region of the world. American Samoa is a representative global study site for background mercury in coral reef sediments and biota, because it is remotely located from up-current atmospheric or oceanic contamination sources. Preliminary data from the first year of the three-year project supports the prevailing view that mercury is a global pollutant, and that bioaccumulation of mercury in remote coral reef ecosystems does occur, even though there are no local or regional sources of mercury.

The work is important to remote Pacific locations because mercury that is released to the atmosphere is not confined to areas where emissions originate. Mercury can enter the environment from natural sources, such as volcanoes, but most mercury released to the atmosphere is a result of human activities. The worldwide environmental burden of mercury is about three times higher today than it was before the onset of industrialization. Proponents for reduction and strict control of mercury emissions worldwide cite the growing body of evidence that indicates trace background levels of mercury have increased in remote areas as a result of emissions from industrialized nations. The unique chemical characteristics of mercury result in widespread distribution once the element is released to the environment. It is known that atmospheric mercury is very nearly uniformly distributed worldwide and that it occurs in the air at all locations across the globe. The implications are that mercury released from developed countries is a global concern. Although eight international conferences on mercury as a global pollutant were convened since the 1990s, international consensus on mercury emissions is hindered by an incomplete understanding of the complex mercury cycle. There is insufficient baseline data from which changes in global background levels or distribution of mercury can be gauged, and few research efforts are undertaken in remote locations because of logistical difficulties, or because research funding is typically prioritized for regions with higher populations, especially industrialized countries.

Like many modern-day chemicals that are economically useful, mercury is also hazardous as a pollutant. It is important in a variety of industrial applications, including instrumentation and control systems, as a catalyst for chemical processes in manufacturing, and as a constituent in specialized metal alloys. Direct economic use of mercury, however, contributes little to the mercury released to the environment. Most mercury emissions are a result of burning coal for electrical power generation. Other major sources are waste incinerators, incidental releases from processing ores, and gold mining. Once released, mercury is widely distributed and affects all regions of the globe. The concerns for atmospheric mercury in remote ecosystems remain largely un-addressed, even though elevated levels of mercury found in fish and shellfish from remote oceanic locations indicate that investigations are warranted.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released reports in 2002 and 2003 that identified some major data gaps for mercury that are of global relevance. These include an incomplete understanding of natural mechanisms and human activities that affect the fate of mercury in the environment. There are also gaps in our understanding of how ecosystems (including humans) are adversely affected by increasing background levels of mercury worldwide. ASEPA contributed to the UNEP reports and has since continued its environmental toxicology work for the Territory.

ASEPA's Territorial Mercury Assessment will address many of the data gaps identified in the UNEP reports. Major project goals are to characterize mercury occurrence in ecosystems remote from the influences of point sources, to determine to what extent mercury found in remote areas is attributable to atmospheric mercury, and to determine if global mercury poses significant health risks for remote oceanic populations. Mercury research by ASEPA is an extension of previously completed agency work on human health risk assessments and sediment toxicity for the Territory. Previous work indicates that mercury occurs in all environmental media that were investigated. Though levels are not considered to be of immediate concern, they do indicate that global mercury has an impact on remote ecosystems.

Many regional organizations in the Pacific are actively engaged in efforts to influence international policy on mercury, from the perspective of small island countries and territories. ASEPA Director Fanuatele Dr. T. Vaiaga'e will have an opportunity to discuss the regional importance of this project with other environmental leaders when he attends the annual meeting for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in September. Global mercury issues are among the top priorities for SPREP and other regional environmental organizations of the Pacific Islands. The ASEPA work will contribute baseline data on mercury from the remote South Pacific, and will add to the efforts to promote changes in international policies for mercury emissions. For further project details, or to discuss preliminary findings, please contact ASEPA project manager and principal investigator Peter Peshut at 633-2304.